

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line, comprising:

an Internet communication module; and
a message formatter;

wherein said Internet communication module is adapted to cause said message formatter to send a personalized notification message recorded by said remote telephone user to said called-but-busy party via TCP/IP protocol over said Internet upon request from a remote telephone user.

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2. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, wherein:

said remote telephone user is a central office.

3. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, wherein:

said remote telephone user is a party trying to establish a telephone call with said called-but-busy party.

4. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, further comprising:

a call related information receiver;

wherein call related information regarding a calling party is included with said notification message.

5. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, wherein:

said call related information receiver is a Caller ID receiver.

6. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, further comprising:

said notification message is a textual message.

7. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 6, wherein:

said textual message is an e-mail message.

8. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, further comprising:

said notification message includes an audibly playable data file.

9. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, wherein:

El. said audibly playable data file automatically plays when received on a computer terminal of said called-but-busy party.

10. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 1, further comprising:

a data signal detector adapted to detect likely Internet usage of said called-but-busy party.

11. (original) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 10, wherein:

said notification message includes information regarding likely Internet usage of said called-but-busy party.

12. (currently amended) A method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

uniquely identifying an Internet user via a telephone call; and
notifying said Internet user through a personalized notification message transmitted using TCP/IP protocol over said Internet, said personalized notification message being recorded by said calling party and indicating that said calling party is requesting access to said Internet user over said telephone line.

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13. (original) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from said calling party.

14. (original) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from a central office.

15. (original) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 12, further comprising:

determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet.

16. (original) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 12, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

17. (original) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 12, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.

18. (currently amended) A method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet;

notifying an attempted calling party to said Internet user of said likelihood from said central office; and

giving said calling party an opportunity of sending said Internet user a personalized message via TCP/IP protocol over said Internet recorded by said calling party.

19. (currently amended) Apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

means for uniquely identifying an Internet user via a telephone call;
and

means for notifying said uniquely identified user via TCP/IP protocol over said Internet that said calling party is requesting access to said Internet user over said telephone line through a personalized message recorded by said calling party.

20. (original) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from said calling party.

21. (original) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from a central office.

22. (original) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 19, further comprising:

means for determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet.

E1. 23. (original) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 19, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

24. (original) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 19, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.

25. (currently amended) Apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

means for determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet; and

means for notifying via TCP/IP protocol over said Internet an attempted calling party to said Internet user of said likelihood to allow said calling party an opportunity to give said Internet user a personalized message recorded by said calling party.

26. (previously presented) Apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line, comprising:

a specially designated, predetermined telephone number center adapted to receive a call from a caller with a desire to send a notification message to a called-but-busy party accessing said Internet; and

a message formatter;

wherein said specially designated, predetermined telephone number center is adapted to cause said message formatter to send a notification message to said called-but-busy party upon request from a remote telephone user.

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27. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, wherein:

said remote telephone user is a party trying to establish a telephone call with said called-but-busy party.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, further comprising:

a call related information receiver;

wherein call related information regarding a calling party is included with said notification message.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 28, wherein:

said call related information receiver is a Caller ID receiver.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, further comprising:

said notification message is a textual message.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 30, wherein:

said textual message is an e-mail message.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying a called-but-busy party of an incoming telephone call attempt over a telephone line while the called-but-busy party is accessing the Internet over the same telephone line according to claim 26, further comprising:

said notification message includes an audibly playable data file.

33. (previously presented) A method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

uniquely identifying an Internet user via a telephone call; and

notifying said Internet user through a specially designated, predetermined telephone number center, adapted to receive a call from said calling party with a desire to send a notification message to said Internet user, that said calling party is requesting access to said Internet user over said telephone line.

34. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from said calling party.

35. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, further comprising:

receiving a notification request from a central office.

36. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, further comprising:

determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet.

37. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

38. (previously presented) The method for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 33, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.

39. (currently amended) Apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user, comprising:

means for uniquely identifying an Internet user via a telephone call;

and

means for notifying said uniquely identified user that said calling party is requesting access to said Internet user over said telephone line through a specially designated, predetermined telephone number center adapted to receive a call from said calling party with a desire to send a notification message to said Internet user [[,]] .

40. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from said calling party.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, further comprising:

means for receiving a notification request from a central office.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, further comprising:

means for determining at a central office a likelihood that said Internet user is connected with said Internet.

43. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, wherein:

said notification is an e-mail message.

44. (previously presented) The apparatus for notifying an Internet user of a telephone line that a calling party is attempting to connect with said Internet user according to claim 39, wherein:

said notification is an audibly playable message.